CLAIMS:

1. A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:

receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network;

performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network;

receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device;

determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device; and

performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device comprises:

receiving an identifier for said at least one device;

searching a task status table using said identifier;

retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier; and

determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device comprises:

determining whether said at least one device is in communication with said network; and

sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

4. A method to communicate information over a network, comprising:

receiving a request to send information to a plurality of devices;

sending said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message;

receiving a request for said information from at least one device;

determining whether said at least one device received said information; and

sending said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said determining whether said at least one device received said information comprises:

receiving an identifier for said at least one device;

searching a task status table using said identifier;

retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier; and

determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said receiving said request for said information comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and

sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

7. A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:

receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network;

performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network;

receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device and an identifier for said at least one device;

searching a task status table using said identifier;

retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier;

determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator; and

performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and

sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

9. An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device, and performing said task

using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination.

10. The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device by receiving an identifier for said at least one device, searching a task status table using said identifier, retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator.

11. The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by determining whether said at least one device is in communication with said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

12. An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a request to send information to a plurality of devices, sending said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message, receiving a request for said information from at least one device, determining whether said at least one device received said information, and sending said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination.

13. The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said at least one device received said information by receiving an identifier for said at least one device, searching a task status table using said identifier, retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

14. The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving a request for said information by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

15. An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, receiving a request to complete said task from at least one device and an identifier for said at least one device, searching a task status table using said identifier, retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator, and performing

said task using a unicast message communicated over said network in accordance with said determination.

16. The article of claim 15, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

17. A system, comprising:

a server, said server having a task handler module to manage completion of a task for a plurality of target devices using a multicast message;

a plurality of target devices, said plurality of target devices each having a task finisher module to request completion of said task if uncompleted; and

a network to communicate information between said server and said plurality of target devices to complete said task.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising a task handler module for each of said plurality of target devices to complete said task for said plurality of target devices.